

Please TAKE ACTION and enforce standards of accountability and fairness. The owners of Sinclair Broadcasting have no intention of presenting unbiased reporting about Senator John Kerry's military record before the election. Quite the opposite, the owners of this media conglomerate are attempting to defeat his candidacy. There can be no 'free' press if corporate mongols dictate the news. Sinclair Broadcasting's travesty of corporate responsibility to the public threatens the fabric of freedom in this country, because the truth must be freely spoken: truth does not belong to the highest bidder. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.